

OLIVE TREES

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OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Journal devoted to Missionary Work in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

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EDITORIALS

Times of Refreshing

The significance of Pentecost cannot be determined solely by reasoning but we have to look to the concrete expressions of the Spirit's power in human society. Pentecost was the fulfilment of the prophecy that in the last days God would pour forth of His Spirit upon all flesh. The "last days" cover the whole period between the first and second advents of our Lord. The apostles were in the beginning of the last days. They received the early rains and now the latter rains are beginning to fall. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit may be experienced again and again in varying degrees in different parts of earth and at most unexpected times and places. The promise of old was, "In the wilderness shall waters break out and streams in the desert."

For our encouragement we wish to summarize some of the present-day acts of the Holy Spirit in widely separated parts of earth. For chapter and verse see the Missionary Review of the World for January. We are accustomed to think of France for example as a Roman Catholic country or perhaps nearly altogether secular, yet where a century ago there were only 171 Protestant churches there are today 776 with a million members. These churches support fifty-three hospitals and asylums, forty-nine orphanages and twenty-four institutional plants, and sustain 179 foreign missionaries or one for every five pastors at home. The vigor and activity of this remnant in a land that has suffered so much is a witness to the outpoured Spirit in France.

The land of the martyred Huss is experiencing a religious revival, which reminds us that the Spirit of the living God is not "cribbed, cabined and confined" but manifests His power in the most unlikely spots. In Bohemia and Moravia there is a great hunger for the Bread of Life. In Prague large theatres were crowded night after night with people anxious to hear the gospel message. Hundreds of penitents sought peace through the acceptance of the crucified One. In Pilzen for example a congregation in fifteen months grew from four hundred and fifty to fourteen thousand and only two preachers. The opportunities for service are unexampled, the laborers for such a harvest so few.

Perhaps we thought of Russia and Poland as the least hopeful of all fields under the preesnt political and physical conditions; yet, we read such sentences as these: "Thousands are turning to Christ!" "The whole of Poland is set on fire for God!" "Whole villages are turning to God, hundreds of them!" "Hundreds of the Red Army are turning to God!" "Masses of the people are turning to the Lord and almost in every city in Russia there are believers." How such a record rebukes our unbelief. Christ is upon His throne and against His church the gates of hell shall not prevail.

In Korea likewise during the past year a remarkable movement has been going on, a great awakening, not a mass movement, but a widespread interest in Christianity. There is a yearning in the hearts of multitudes for a peace and satisfaction of heart which they seem able to find only in Christ. In many places the attendance upon church services and in schools has increased from 100 per cent. to 300 per cent.

The most striking spiritual movement that we have noted is that in Guatamala. A series of evangelistic services was held under the leadership of a Pastor Varetto, who is described as a Moody and a Spurgeon in one, which were attended by thousands, resulting in hundreds of conversions.

The ferment in human society is a sign of life and though that ferment may at times express itself in explosions that are alarming yet the Spirit of life who is brooding over the troubled waters will bring order out of chaos and light out of darkness. There is a ferment in India and in Egypt. "Spiritually India is passing through a refining fire which affects also other phases of life. The caste system, child marriage, ignorance, poverty, degradation cannot survive spiritual burning."

The stirring among the dead bones in our Syrian field is an indication that the prayers of God's people have not been in vain and there is the good hope that we shall yet see multitudes in the valley of decision. Let us therefore gird up the loins of our minds, be sober and hope to the end for the grace that is to be revealed.

* * * *

Syria's Sorrows

So many are the appeals for the relief of the needy and destitute ones of earth that many grow weary and steel their hearts or turn a deaf ear to the pleading cries of the perishing. Yet if it is wearisome to hear the appeals what must it be to be in the position of those who need the help?

Rev. S. Edgar just home from Syria unfolds a tale of sorrow that would melt a heart of stone. If after listening to his story we could then see the picture "Alice in Hungerland" we would then begin to have some faint conception of the awful sufferings in the Near East.

The picture of thousands of Christians after years of sufferings in strange lands, then repatriated under strong guarantees, once again fleeing for life, like the tribe of the wandering foot doomed to be forever on the march, seeking refuge God only knows where, practically penniless, without food and shelter is not one easy to forget.

We are not at liberty to speak of the political conditions which have brought about such a deplorable state of affairs. Suffice it to sav that in all this we have a most impressive argument for the Christianization of the social order. If this government had been actuated by the spirit of the Christ could it have stood by without lifting a hand to save the fruits of eighty years of missionary activity in the Near East? Could it have refused the challenge to render a mighty service for the Kingdom of God because of what it might cost in men and money? Would America have stood aside because there were no oil wells or mines or other material gains to be had from taking a mandate in that land? Political secularism is the great obstacle to the successful prosecution of the missionary enterprise. There can be no room for complacency or boasting on the part of this nation on account of its idealism and stand for lofty principles so long as the blood of martyred Armenia can be laid to its charge.

The Near East Relief has under its charge 100,000 children but as many more are doomed to death unless rich America responds to the call. "The price of one battleship invested in the Near East will do more toward avoiding future world wars and establishing peace and good-will among men than billions of dollars spent later to correct present short-sighted neglect of the famishing people."

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

By Latakia Mission on the Departure of Rev. Samuel Edgar.

WHEREAS, Our brother and coworker, Rev. Samuel Edgar, has, in the all-wise plan of the Master, been called to the home land, leaving work here which is dear to his heart, we, the members of the Latakia Mission Circle, wish to record our heartfelt regret at his loss, and our high appreciation of the cordial and genial fellowship enjoyed with him during his period of service in Latakia.

We testify to his remarkable zeal and efficiency as a missionary; to his extensive success as a relief worker; and to his delightful faculty for making friends with all classes of people. His enthusiasm was constant and his tact unfailing. His genial countenance and hearty greetings and warm handshake are sorely missed by us and by all who knew him throughout Syria and Palestine.

We follow Mr. Edgar with our prayer that he will be blessed in full measure wherever he is called to serve and that it may be the pleasure of the Master to return him to his work among us in due time.

ANNIE LAURIE KENNEDY,

Secretary.

A FINE EFFORT

Morning Sun, Ia., Jan. 2, 1922. Mr. M. M. Pearce, D. D.,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

When the OLIVE TREES came with its page appeal for help for the "Near East Relief" it seemed to some of us that that appeal should be "sent on," so we asked the ladies of the Missionary Society for that page of their OLIVE TREES. Had posters made, pasting that page on them as part of the appeal and appointing two of the business ladies of the town to receive contributions. The local editor re-printed the appeal free of cost in our town paper. Today we counted up the returns from the appeal and find that eighty-nine dollars and twenty cents (\$89.20) have been received and forwarded to this work. Some of the churches sent in the money through their own church treasurers. We wish it could have been more, but feel that the effort to send on the appeal has been worth while.

We enjoy the OLIVE TREES. Every line in it. Thank you.

Yours respectfully, (Miss) CORA KILPATRICK.

OBITUARY

MRS. COVERDALE

The Women's Missionary Society of Geneva Congregation wishes to record its sense of loss in the death of the senior member, Mrs. Coverdale, who ended her pilgrimage November 30th in her 91st year.

She met with an accident in February, 1915, by a fall on the ice, which broke her thighbone, and was confined to her bed for six months, which put an end for a time to her going and coming among us. Neither physician nor friends expected that she would ever walk again, but though confined to the house for six months more, she became able to go about with the aid of a cane. She was even able sometimes to be present at the Missionary Society, and at congregational meetings she was one of the chief attractions.

Mrs. Coverdale was a remarkable woman, always active in good works. Her hearing was much impaired for many years, but her mind was clear, and she enjoyed being visited by her friends. Until a comparatively recent time one found her either reading or sewing, but latterly on account of failing eyesight she occupied herself with knitting.

It was understood that some member of the society should go to see her before each monthly meeting, to tell her what work was being taken up, and receive her contribution, which was sure to be liberal. One of her favorite schemes was the Bible Society. She made it understood that her name was not to be used, but all the credit was to be given to the society. In 1921 she fell and fractured the ball of her other hip-joint, and was again confined to her bed.

For almost a year she was also afflicted with an affection of the throat, which continued till the end, which came in the early hours of November 30th, when gently and painlessly she slept in Jesus.

Almost her last words were to arrange for help to be given to a family in whom she had become interested and whose children she was anxious to have brought into the Sabbath School

Until the fall of 1920 she never missed being in her place at the communion table. Unable to hear, she was still brought over in time to be seated.

Such a life and such a death surely show forth the glory of the Fathen who is in heaven.

As a society we tender our sympathy to her daughters, and her son, and grandchildren, especially the family of which she was a beloved, and tenderly cared for member.

The Women's Missionary Society and members of the congregation have given to the China Mission the sum of \$75 as a memorial to her.

May we all grow more and more into the likeness of Him whom she served.

> MRS. MARY E. METHENY, MRS. M. L. PULLINGER.

* * * *

MISS MINNIE WILSON

"Not in cruelty, not in wrath.

The Reaper came that day;

'Twas an Angel visited the green earth,

And took the flowers away."

Thus it was true of our faithful coworker and loyal Christian friend, the late Miss Minnie Wilson, whose worthy example and sincere devotion has left a lasting impression upon the minds of those who knew her. With a life fully consecrated to the Master's service, with an eve single to his glory she touched the impressionable minds of our boys and girls, and pointed them to heights beyond where dwelleth purity, truth and love. That touch can never be erased and none but an infinite mind can tell how far reaching it will be. But she has gone to be with the Saviour, whom she loved, which is far better.

RESOLVED:

First, That we the Faculty of Knox Academy, Selma, Ala., having found in Miss Wilson a faithful and willing helper and whose genial presence and wise counsel was an inspiration; One who did her utmost to inculcate within the minds of her pupils the principles of the Christian religion and also to help forward in every possible way the cause of Christ in this Field.

Second, That we take this method of expressing our appreciation of her faithful and untiring service. That we emulate her worthy example, her sacrifice and deeds of charity and that we be ever mindful of the great God who made her to be a "bright and shining light."

Third, That we tender to the bereaved family our deepest sympathy, praying that our Heavenly Father may comfort and sustain them in their sorrow.

> MISS MARY E. FOWLER, MRS. M. I. ROBB, MRS. E. BROOKS, MRS. DAISY HILL, MISS SOPHIA KINGSTON, Committee.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

AND NOTES OF THE WORKERS

Edited by MRS. FINDLEY M. WILSON, 2410 N. Marshall Street

Philadelphia, Penna.

The newly-appointed missionary nurses, Miss Agnes Archer and Miss Lillian Cunningham, are now en route to Latakia, Syria, having sailed on the "Adriatic" from New York, January 7. Their farewell message appears in this department.

* * * *

Miss Jennie M. Dean, of the Lo Ting station in China, is expecting to come home on regular furlough in the spring.

Rev. Samuel Edgar arrived in Boston December 24. He is now on his way to his home in Greely, Colorado.

* * * *

Most of the month of November was taken up with a Conference for the native preachers in our China field. The Conference was held at Tak Hing and was conducted by Rev. William M. Robb and Rev. R. C. Adams. They studied the book of the Acts. The last three days of the Conference was open to all Christians. A longer account of it is given with the notes from Lo Ting.

SYRIA

Latakia, Syria. We are indebted to Miss Maggie B. Edgar for this report of the work of the Bible woman in Latakia. Miss Edgar is at the home of her brother, Rev. George Edgar, at Winona Lake, Indiana:

"The report of the work of our Bible woman, Julia Shemas, for the month of October is very encouraging and gives us much reason for thanksgiving that she has been already able to find such an entrance into so many new homes. According to her report, she made during the month 68 visits and met during these visits more than 300 persons, quite a large number of these Moslem women."

Mrs. Balph writes, in addition to sending the report schedule: "The Svrian pastor very kindly took Mrs. Shemas to some Christian homes, and I went with her to the homes of some former Mersine pupils, who are married and living here, and although I failed to see the one who has been here the longest, her neighbors insisted upon our going into their We went into two, where houses. most of the others gathered, and listened attentively to all Julia had to say. A few of them had babies, who divided their attention at times. In the report only adults and children old enough to comprehend are counted. This is a distinctly Moslem quarter, and the next time we went there was a lady who had been a pupil of Julia's mother in Alexandretta in the very first house we visited. She asked Julia to read the story of Job. She gave it in brief and all the others were greatly interested.

"In going about with the Bible woman I think I am not mistaken in saying that she is very wise and prudent in her manner of introducing her subjects and most tactful in avoiding or discouraging fruitless arguments. She is also quick to seize every little opening they themselves give her to speak things that are worth while.

"Is there not great cause here for praise and for much prayer that not only interest may be continued but that many darkened souls may be brought to Christ by this work?"

* * * *

Dr. R. Esmond Smith sends the news items from Latakia under date of December 3:

"We have all been very well since our arrival on September 20. Mr. Edgar had a final attack of malaria several days before he sailed for Ireland and the homeland. I think he just wanted to see if Dr. Balph and I could handle a real case. We succeeded in getting him well again, though he was sick longer than any of us wished. His letters have been coming back to us from the various points at which his boat has stopped in the Mediterranean. The last one that has come was sent to Maalam Selim Haddad, the veteran language instructor of the station, who has taught most of the missionaries that have come to Latakia as their first place of labor. He is now on pension, as he is almost blind and has retired from active duty."

"I was speaking of the last letter. Well, the postmark showed that it was mailed 7 P. M., November 7, at Gibraltar. He had been having a very delightful voyage and was enjoying it to the full. He was sharing his stateroom with a man who had lived and worked in Latakia. We are glad that Mr. Edgar has had this opportunity for a rest under such favorable conditions as an ocean voyage affords. He is not subject to seasickness so a little rough weather only furnishes an added diversion to him. He is greatly missed here at Latakia, the people missing him fully as much as any of us in the work, and we miss him all the time. In the copy of resolutions which I am sending you in this letter, we have tried to express our appreciation of his sterling worth and character. We hope that this will reach you in time to be published in the January number of the OLIVE TREES." *

"Before beginning to tell of the news of the station and district I will tell you the meaning of a few names and titles which I shall use. They do not sound so well when put into English. I shall try to spell them phonetically so you will have little trouble pronouncing them. "'Kasees' means pastor; 'Maalam' means teacher and 'Sit' means Miss or Mrs. I shall not attempt to tell you the meaning of all the proper names, for many of them 1 do not know myself.

"Kasees Khaleel Awid, the pastor of the Latakia congregation, was sick from Monday until Thursday of this week. He came to see me on Thursday, though Dr. Balph had not told him he should be out, and I got most of the news, which I shall tell you, from him. He went out to the village of Gendarieh last Monday for a wedding service, and when he came back he went to bed with a high fever. Dr. Balph took him in charge and he made a quick recovery under anti-malarial treatment and is feeling well, though somewhat weaker, once more."

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"The wedding in Gendarieh was that of Maalam Selim and Sit Maneria, both of whom live in the village. Maalam Selim has been educated in the Boys' School here and has been teaching in this school all fall. He is now to go to the village of Dabbash, to open the school there. Educational and evangelistic work was carried on in this village years ago but had to be abandoned some twenty years ago because of the opposition met. Recently leaders of both the Moslems and the Christians of the village have come to Kasees Kaleel to ask that the school be reopened. This did not seem possible for us until Maalam Ibrahim Hanna came down from Mersine. along with the first of the people to leave Gilicia because of the fear of impending danger which might come to them as a result of the French returning that territory to the Turks, under Kemal Pasha. We have retained Maalam Ibrahim to teach in the school here and are sending Maalam Selim to Dabbash. God uses even the folly and fear of man to forward His own cause."

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"The Kasees reports that the school in Gendarieh is thriving and has some 30 pupils in attendance. They have progressed to the extent of having some of the girls study along with the boys. There was little sickness in the village. Maalam Nasar is very good to look after their needs and frequently carries quinine and salts back with him when he comes into Latakia. Sit Maneria is his sister so we are hoping for good success in Dabbash when the work is opened there. The people of Gendarieh are busy collecting material for the house which is to be built there for the school and church services. Title to the land, the mission has held there, has been returned free of claim by anyone else and a narrow strip adjoining it has been acquired for six Syrian pounds, about \$8.50."

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"Maalam Suker, the teacher from the village of El Bisteroon, has been in to visit the Kasees and reports a school of between 30 and 35 pupils and that everything is going well in the village."

"Maalam Kareem, of El Murj, says that he has about 30 children in his school and all seem to be interested and anxious to learn. Instruction in these village schools consists most largely in learning to read and the Bible is taken as the principal text, so that the boys learn the truth very early. The teachers are all evangelists and hold regular weekly services in Arabic. They are paid and supervised by the Mission here."

"The Government has made a strenous effort to have all the people of Latakia, and the surrounding district, registered. The Kasees was successful in getting permission to register all the Protestants as such, a thing which has never been permitted before. The French seem very friendly and interested in the work that we are doing here. The civic improvements

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which they have undertaken here are very encouraging. We wish that France had prohibition, for since the coming of the French officials, drinking has become more general and excessive. Saloons are much more numerous than they were previously."

"The pastor is planning to hold communion services on January 1 or as soon thereafter as possible. He wishes to have another election for the office of Elder to fill the place left vacant by the death Najeeb Boolad, which occurred last May, soon after his election as elder of the newly-organized congregation."

* * * *

"The cases of illness among the members of the congregation are not very numerous at present. For this we are very thankful. Smallpox has broken out in the city and there are quite a number of cases, though most of them have been fairly mild thus far. Wadeh Daggir, a member of the congregation and former graduate of the American Academy at Larnaca Cyprus, is recovering from a mild attack of smallpox."

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"Maalam Ibrahim Hanna and Kasees Michiel Latoof, who have come to Latakia from Cilicia, have both secured living quarters and are helping the work here. We have had no recent reports as to conditions prevailing in Cilicia and we hope that it may soon be safe for the people to return to their homes."

"Thanksgiving has come and gone. We all had many things for which to thank and praise God. In the midst of trials and hardships which come to the people, there are many encouraging and strengthening experiences. The Lord is ever watching to help those who trust in Him. We read the news of the church at home with interest. We are glad that a concerted effort is made to give preaching to all the congregations. I am sure the congregations all share in the blessings which are now following the meetings which have been held. We hope that the coming of the New Year will bring new inspiration and vital interest in all the church's activities. We are not yet measuring up to Christ's expectations in our responses to His call for our money, lives and *prayers*. He is waiting to lead and to guide and He is anxious to crown our efforts with His blessings, but we *must Follow Him.*"

CHINA

Lo Ting, China. This account of the Conference for native preachers in China comes from Mrs. Wm. M. Robb; also the article on prayer. The report of the special evangelistic meetings for women was written by one of the lady missionaries at Lo Ting.

"A month's Bible Study and Prayer Conference for the preachers was arranged at last mission meeting to be held during the autumn of 1921. The Conference was in session during the month of November with fourteen enrolled as regular members of the class. The book of Acts was studied in detail. Following this preachers' conference, a general conference of four days' duration was held for all who could attend. The following are some gleanings from the reports of these meetings.

"Work is going on quite well. Last night we had a very good prayer meeting. We are studying the seven churches of Asia consecutively, taking up one each evening. Last night it was the Laodicean church, the lukewarm one. It was rather searching and the spirit of prayer was good. Some are quite reticent about praying. O we need something that will bring the Spirit's presence so abundantly that all will be melted down. I do not know anything that will do it but prayer."

Two days later. "The conference is going on pretty good. A good spirit among the men and a good deal of diligent preparation for daily work, and some heart culture, too. It is wonderful the penetrating power of the Word. There have been some most searching chapters. If I mistake not, conviction has been written on many faces, and I trust on hearts, too, with a 'pen of iron and with the point of a diamond. We hope the Spirit is not hindered in His work farther. That there is discomfort in many hearts I think is manifest to all. Foon Wing confessed to buying things on Sabbath at Loping, although he had urged others that they should not do so, and when they said, 'O you buy things on Sabbath but tell others not to,' his conscience was very much smitten. There are some others, too, who have made some confessions, but the ones whose sins we have reason to believe are the greatest are not yet to the point of coming out, but pray on in faith.'

Written near the close of the Bible Study period.

"We are experiencing wonderful times here. The Lord is in His holy temple. The Spirit of the living God is in our midst unmistakably, and the work of cleansing is going forward. I am utterly incapable of giving any proper representation of what is taking place. The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, did some wondrous work in the Bible Class. and every man was brought under great convicition of sin, simply by the power of the Word. O, it was wonderful. I say 'every man,' and that included myself. I think the climax came in the consideration of Paul's speech before Agrippa, and the hour closed by resolving itself into a prayer meeting in which we were all brought before the Lord, each one in turn pouring out his soul to God. Every man prayed, and praved as though his own sin was colossal."

Again: "You will think after yesterday's letter that everything will be cleared up ere this. But, strange to say, a deadlock seems to have struck us and the spirit of prayer seems killed. Mr. Au speaks eloquently and pleadingly, but after the meetings no one will pray, and the silence, if broken, is for a little only. I do not know where the barrier lies, but it is very apparent."

Next day: "There is just one thing on our hearts these days and that is this conference. It seems as if it has been the one thing in all our thoughts for many weeks. That it has already proven a great blessing to some is undoubtedly true. That we would like it to prove a still greater blessing to many more, is also true. I wrote you vesterday about the lock that seemed to have come and that there was no inclination to pray, or at least no prayer. This caused some great heart-searchings among the missionaries at least. Yesterday morning Mr. Adams was leader, with the subject of Jacob wrestling. He threw the meeting open for prayer before speaking on the topic at all, and the spirit of prayer came upon people again, and the presence of the Holy Spirit was manifestly with us once more. Many prayed in great earnestness and we came home feeling that the Lord had not turned His face from us. In the evening, Mr. Au spoke on 'Present your bodies a living sacrifice,' and gripped hearts by his message. At the close he called for those who would by rasing the hand indicate that they yield themselves to God. A few responded. He plead a little longer and then asked people to pray. Foon Wing was the first to his feet, although I do not know that he raised his hand, but in his prayer he gave himself to God from this time forth. Some others followed. Hon Shaang prayed, and confessed to being afraid to do what was asked, and thrice called on God to have mercy on him. Some others, too, prayed along the same line, but altogether it was a wonderful meeting and one for which we praise God much.

"The topic this morning for prayer meeting is Ephesians 5: 25-27, 'A glorious church without spot or wrinkle, etc.' The pasage for this morning seems to suggest that the church as a corporate organization is to be cleansed by the 'washing of water through the Word,' and that is just what we are depending upon, and are asking Him to wash thoroughly."

Later: "And now the conference is closed, but even though it is over we are still praying to God for further deliverances that all the men may go the whole way with God.

"Several men from the district adjoining Do Sing were in attendance at all the meetings to get what they could from the study. After the study was over they registered as believers, and asked that an evangelist be sent to their village. They offered to furnish a room for a chapel."

* * * *

"Tse Ts'at So, a recent convert, is a firm believer in the efficacy of prayer. Whenever she finds herself in any difficulty, her first impulse is to come to the chapel for united praver. She has had some signal answers, too. Once her son ran away, after having stolen some money, and went they knew not where. She came to pray. Shortly after a letter came from him, telling where he was and that he had taken the money, and he was soon back home. Another day, her little servant girl ran away. Ts'at So came to pray. When she returned home the little girl was back. Are you tempted to say, 'Well, maybe she would have been there anyway?' What do you say then about Isa. 65: 24: 'Before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear'? Later the girl runs away again. Ts'at So prays for her return herself, but no girl is seen, so she comes again to us. We pray just as earnestly as before, but several days pass and no servant girl returns. She is just a young girl about 12 years of age, and grave fears are felt for her safety, for the devil draws many such as she into his net. In about a week's time, Ts'at So

comes again with beaming countenance telling that as she was kneeling in prayer the night before the girl returned. After she had run away from the house, a woman, who was a professional kidnaper, had gotten hold of her, and was detaining her until a favorable opportunity came to get down the river with her. When we began to realize some of the peril in which she had been the question was stupidly asked of the Christian woman, 'Well, if the girl was in a place like that how did it come she ever got away?' And then the babe in Christ simply replied with childlike faith, 'Well, I can't tell; its just the power of the Heavenly Father; He just heard us when we prayed.""

"The morning of November 4 found Dr. and Mrs. Dickson back among their many friends at Lo Ting. Friends and faces greeted them with joy that was real. May the Lord greatly bless the labors of these two devoted workers as they return to the work they so much love in China!"

* * *

SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC MEET-INGS FOR WOMEN AT LIN TAAN

"Foreign devil woman! Foreign devil woman! Come and see the foreign devil women!" These were the cries that greeted the ears of Miss Barr and her assistants (Miss Stewart and two Bible women) when they appeared in the streets of Lin Taan on the third of November. Crowds of boys and young men hooted them from door to door as they paused to speak to Christians or other interested parties. At night a gang of ruffians gathered in front of the chapel, banging the door and shouting all sorts of insulting remarks.

Why were the foreigners there? To hold a week's special meetings for our Chinese sisters in that part of the Lo Ting field. A big idol festival opened the following day and the town fairly swarmed with women and girls -men and boys, too-from outlying villages. It was in anticipation of these crowds that your representatives had planned to be in Lin Taan at that time. The Chinese minister in charge was attending the preachers' conference at Tak Hing, so the chapel was peculiarly open for this special effort to reach the women of that district. Many had never even heard of the one true God, nor of the Christ who died to save them from sin, and the superstitious fear which had incited the festival. Over a thousand dollars was spent for paper offerings to be burnt in honor of the idols.

Daily meetings of over three hours' duration were held during the middle of the day. There was also a session at night. Hundreds crowded into the chapel, coming and going as fancy dictated. It was not easy to hold the attention of such an audience, and at times a megaphone would have been useful. Miss Jean Barr's friends in the U. S. would have been interested in seeing her mounted on a stool behind the pulpit the aisles were packed and people stood on the seats and crowded about the speaker), giving out a clear gospel in excellent Chinese.

Practically all came out of idle curiosity, but we rejoice that there were some who went away apparently interested. Every day there were those who begged for more definite details of how to worship our Heavenly Father. However the change from pageantry worship of idols to pure heart worship of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is so tremendous that it isn't often made in a day. Miss Stewart returned at the close of the big meetings, but Miss Barr and her two Chinese Bible women remained They wanted to be another week. there to help those who might come for more instruction, and also to visit the few Christians in that vicinity. The results are far from encouraging, but we must continue to pray that the message and literature given out may some day yield an abundant harvest.

Tak Hing, China. Mrs. Julius Kempf, the official news gatherer of the Tak Hing station, mails us the following readable sketches. The first is by Miss Rose Huston, and the other about our friend, "Barty," the blind peanut man of Tak Hing, was written by Dr. Kate McBurney.

"Sham Lai Kei, one of the Bible women, who recently adopted a little castaway baby girl, came to our door, smiling and happy. 'As I was coming along the road,' she said, 'I caught up to an old grandmother, and what do you think? She had a baby in her basket, too. She was taking it to the orphanage us street, and I suggested that she bring it to the hospital, instead, as they are going to take care of mine till it is big enough to eat rice, and I thought they might take it, too.'

"A call at the gate proved to be the old lady with her precious (?) burden. I lifted the lid of the basket, and thrilled with ever wondrous love for newborn innocence, I gazed at a tiny babe, not dressed in dainty garments, pure and white, but merely wrapped in rags of faded blue.

"'Whose baby is it, and where did you get it?' was asked. 'It belongs to a family at Loong Faat.' 'Are they so very poor they can't keep it, or why are they sending it to the orphanage? 'No, they are not poor. They have plenty to eat; in fact, are fairly wellto-do. But they already had two girls and didn't want another.' 'How old is it?' 'Born yesterday, and it's beginning to get hungry,' as it began to cry, being wakened from its eightmile nap by the bright sunlight and a crowd of interested onlookers. 'How much do you want for it?' asked a woman whose heart still sorrowed for her own little girl who has long since 'passed beyond the body.' 'How much for it? Oh, you can have it for nothing if you give me twenty-five or thirty cents for carrying it in.'

"I looked into the basket on the other end of the pole. Only a brick to balance the weight of the baby, yes, and perhaps it would overbalance her estimate of its worth. The brick would be worth carrying home, but the baby wasn't wanted.

"Every heart was touched with love and pity, and one heart at least, perhaps not more for the child than for the mother whose heart is so benighted and bound by superstition that in her blind groping for happiness and peace, she is willing to see her own little babe cast out in the cold world.

"As one and another expressed the love and longing they felt for the tiny waif, one said, 'But you would soon get used to seeing them carried in like that if you lived on the street near the orphanage."

"'Barty' is in business, and seems to be doing fairly well from a business standpoint, but his spiritual life is apparently at low tide. He lost over six dollars' worth of peanuts, which he had laid in when he could get them at an advantageous rate. These were stolen one evening when he was out selling his wares. He was greatly disappointed in this for he has ambitions. He is in debt, and has thought up a bright scheme for getting out. Now since the theft he is the more sure that it is not good for man to be alone. If he had some one to watch the house when he is out, and incidentally to help him in his work (for there is a lot of work involved in getting the melon seeds and peanuts to be of the exact fine flavor for which his products are famous) he would be able to earn much faster, get out of debt, and -have a little home of his own. Ambitious as he is, he is modest in his He is convinced that expectations. no perfect specimen of woman would condescend to round out his domestic tranguility, but would view with favor a lame woman, if she was guaranteed to be 'ho t' ling wa' (obedient). His ideas of Christianity are extremely materialistic. He has tried tithing but finds he does not get rich any faster so has given it up. It is only

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because he is forbidden by human authority that he does not sell his wares on seven days of the week. He gives as his reason that people who can see are disregarding the Sabbath, and are becoming more prosperous in doing so. He refers to one of our deacons who started a boarding house, or restaurant some years since, and now has a branch house at the mouth of the Lo Ting River. He says this man works seven days in the week and is very prosperous. (Incidentally, the deacon referred to is renting a room for chapel and paying for it himself, and holding meetings in it. He has brought a number of men to register, and some have been baptized as a result of his efforts.)

"This physically blinded brother is afflicted with spiritual dimness of vision. He is capable, and if fully surrendered, could be used of God, while supporting himself. Wouldn't that be a powerful argument for our seeing Christians? Oh! for that day to come. Pray that the Holy Spirit may gain possession of him, so that as he goes about, peddling his melon seeds and peanuts, his witness for the Master may be as clear and unmistakable as the clarion call of his bugle."

FAREWELL LETTER FROM OUR OUTGOING MISSIONARIES

Pennsylvania Hotel

New York City, Jan. 6, 1922.

We think it is fitting that, on this the eve of our departure to our new field, we express in some way our appreciation of the great kindness, help and encouragement afforded us by the kind people of the Church we go to represent. We shall always remember their liberal gifts, kinds words and many prayers offered on our behalf. We hope the Lord will grant these petitions, and that we may not let an opportunity slip to tell the great Gospel story of the love of God in Jesus Christ to some whose ears have never heard the glad news. We cannot find words to express to you the encouragement and enthusiasm which filled us as we looked into the faces and shook hands with those whom we have had the great privilege to meet at the different receptions given for us. These were indeed sights we shall long remember, and, many times as we are studying the language or working in the hospitals we will travel back in thought and love to the kind people who gave such a good send-off. Such memories will spur us on to greater service.

We say good-bye to all our good friends, with full assurance that your prayers and good wishes go with us, and thanking God for the great honor of being your representatives in Latakia and Mersina, and even though we in ourselves are weak, we have the great Promise, that, "God's grace is sufficient, and His strength is made perfect in our weakness," we do not fear, for the Master whom we serve has said, "Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

> AGNES M. ARCHER, LILLIAN F. CUNNINGHAM.

OUR CHURCHES AND THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

The following letter from Mr. Frank H. Mann, of the American Bible Society, contains a message for the Covenanter Churches. Prior to the last meeting of Synod Mr. Mann attended a meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions to speak of the intimate connection between the work of the Bible Society and all mission work. Members of Synod will recall that he also spoke before the Co-ordinating Committee and the Synod. Synod requested congregations to make an offering to the Bible Society. This letter, addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, tells of the increased offerings of our churches and the appreciation of the Society:

"A MERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, "Bible House, Astor Place, "New York. "January 17, 1922.

"Dear Brother:

"What the Reformed Presbyterian Churches have done for Bible circulation throughout the world is a matter that will greatly interest and encourage you.

"In 1920 the total gifts from your churches to the American Bible Society were approximately \$450. In 1921 your churches gave \$1388, a very substantial increase for which we are indeed grateful. In spite of this very large increase only 36 churches participated.

"It is our hope that this year every church will respond to the request of Synod that the third Sabbath in May be set aside for an offering for the American Bible Society. Of course, if it is more convenient for your congregation to take such an offering at an earlier or later date, it is all the same to us and will be greatly appreciated.

"I am enclosing some samples of our literature which we can supply, without cost, for your use in informing your people about our work.

"We would be pleased if, at some suitable occasion, you would express to your people our gratitude for their generous interest. It is indeed a source of great encouragement to us that your churches have so generously shared in this fundamental worldwide program.

"Yours sincerely,

"FRANK H. MANN, "General Secretary."

WOMEN'S SYNODICAL DEPARTMENT

Edited by MRS. MYRTA MAY DODDS, 2018 South Columbine, Denver, Colo., and MISS MARY E. SHANKS, 115 West Dakota Ave., Denver, Colo. Junior Editor, MISS MARY A. MCWILLIAMS, 5 Reed St.,

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Greetings from the Synodical Corresponding Secretary.

Dear Sisters of the Synodical:

Hearty greetings to each one!

We are happy to welcome into our ranks another Presbyterial Missionary society in southern California. May God's blessing be upon each member.

The corresponding secretary's report blanks will be sent out soon. Will all societies see that they are promptly filled out and returned? These reports will be compiled and published in the OLIVE TREES.

We wish to express the appreciation of the Synodical to Mrs. J. S. Martin and Mrs. M. E. Metheny for their faithful work so cheerfully given these many years for the OLIVE TREES. God has abundantly blessed their efforts.

May we also help our new editors in the task they have undertaken, by items of news or anything of special interest that we can pass along to help others.

Let us each ask ourselves the question: "Is our faith a working force?"

MRS. W. M. HUTCHESON.

Sterling, Kansas.

SYNODICAL MEMORY VERSE.

March—"Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion. Isa. 52:1.

A Spring Cry.

SYNODICAL ACTIVITIES.

Selma, Ala., W. M. S. keeps one girl in school in China and one boy in school in Africa. The plan is to support them in school until they graduate.

The society improved the pulpit by a new coat of paint and added a pretty Axminster rug.

The W. M. S. and the congregation

are being revived by cottage prayer meetings.

The Home Department opened a reading room for colored boys and girls. They do not have access to the public library. A donation of good story books and magazine will be greatly appreciated.

Old Bethel W. M. S. had an "eggday"—all eggs gathered that day were sold and the price given to the society.

Thank-Offering boxes have been placed in each home.

Princeton W. M. S. pays and prays, but have not been able to have many meetings on account of sickness. They are planning for more active work.

Oakdale W. M. S. is quilting and serving dinners to increase the treasury.

Ill. Presbyterial writes that it is ahead of any other on at least one count in having a poetess: Miss Agnes McIlroy, of St. Louis.

Several St. Louis women belong to Sparta W. M. S.

Denver W. M. S. served a fine turkey dinner the day of the congregational meeting. Mrs. Atchison, Miss Cannon and Mrs. Carson made a fine committee. The Y. W. M. S. decorated the dining room and served the guests most graciously.

Bloomington W. M. S. Superintendent of Standard of Efficiency is Mrs. Mary McCaughan, who is seeking earnestly to enroll every woman in the congregation as a member of the missionary society.

Most of the meetings are held in the homes and are well attended, full of interest and instruction. They use the Uniform Program and keep in close touch with missionary effort in all lands.

Every member in the society is on a committee and has a part in the work.

INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES.

You will soon be receiving the report blanks from the corresponding secretary. You can make your report better than last year. Study these facts and compare notes.

Do You Know:

1. *That* the W. M. S. of the Covenanter Church is an important factor in the Church's work?

2. That 45 societies reported last year \$5063.68 Thank-Offering?

3. That 49 societies reported \$14,-354.27 contributions last year?

4. That 54 societies reported 818 meetings held with 22,254 total attendance? (This indicates over 22,-000 half or whole days given for missionary work or study.)

5. *That* boxes valued at \$4176.64 were sent last year by 37 societies?

6. That the Junior M. S. have 499 members and contributed \$615.50?

7. *That* three young W. M. Societies contributed \$421,23?

8. *That* 23 societies reported \$114,-618.43 total contributions since organization?

9. That Syracuse, N. Y., Society was organized in 1850?

10. *That* our youngest societies are Cambridge, Mass.; Orlando, Florida; Barnet, Vermont, and Fresno, Cal.?

11. That 18 societies have been organized over 40 years? Utica, 1856; Allegheny, 1858; New Concord, 1864; Eighth St., Pittsburgh, 1866; Third Philadelphia, 1870; New Alexandria, 1873; New Castle, 1875; Oakdale, 1875; Hopkinton, 1876; Beaver Falls, 1876; United Miami, O., 1876; Parnassus, 1877; Mercer, 1878; Morning Sun, 1879; Miller's Run, 1879; Old Bethel, 1880.

12. *That* we now have seven Presbyterials. See second page of cover of OLIVE TREES.

13. *That* the Thank-Offering Superintendent recommended and Synodical adopted the recommendation that our undesignated Thank Offering be given to support two lady teachers for Cyprus Girls' School to be opened by the Foreign Board in the autumn of 1922?

14. *That* each society should have an active Thank-Offering Superintendent?

15. *That* the Plan of Work Board recommends in the December OLIVE TREES, page 180, three things for missionary societies to do? Have you done your share?

In the March OLIVE TREES we will delight you with some figures from the Planning Board.

May we call special attention to the March program? Do we know the "Power of Prayer?" Are all our members "Intercessors" praying for Recruits?

If every officer and superintendent will prepare a written report to hand the secretary, her problem of filling the Synodical report blanks will be solved.

"Prayer and Co-Operation Win."

Yours to "win,"

MYRTA MAY DODDS.

Responsibility of the Women's Missionary Society for the Consecration of Young People to a Life of Christian Service.

(Excerpts from a paper read at Colorado Presbyterial in Denver, by Mrs. C. T. Carson, Greeley.)

"'There is a loftier ambition than merely to rise high in the world; it is to stoop down and lift mankind a little higher.' A life with no ambition is a worthless, sedentary, selfish life. Success is the goal to which everyone is striving. But how to attain it? How can we forge to the front? 'By riding rough-shod over all competitors,' says the world. 'By serving,' says Christ. What shall we choose?"

"The world's way is the easy way, but Christ's is the divine way. 'Whosoever will be chief among you let him be your minister.' How like a paradox it sounds. Was Christ not ambitious? Rather he was the most ambitious man the world has ever known. His purpose was to establish a Kingdom without end over which he would reign in company with His Father, with redeemed mankind, a universal brotherhood. Was there ever a loftier ambition? And how did he attain it? Not by might, nor by power but by the spirit, by humility, by service, by way of the Cross. To live, then, is to serve."

"But there is another phase of 'lifeservice,' and that is, consecrating one's whole time to the Master. We need, we must have, the home workers, but we also need those to work on the frontiers—'Empire Builders' the old pioneers were called. Was there ever a greater challenge to young people or ability, than to be 'Empire Builders' for Christ? Yet whoever heard of the ministry being over-crowded, and although aggressive missionary work has been carried on for over a hundred years, the demand is far in advance of the supply."

"Doctor Charles E. Jefferson says, 'Let the pulpit decay and the cause of Christ is lost.' Instead of entering the ministry by twos, young men should be entering by scores. In Colorado alone, it is feared that the engineering profession will be overcrowded in a few years, due to the number of young men engaged in that study. What a travesty, when the need for workers abroad is so great! Yet is not a human soul more precious than all the precious metals of the earth?"

"We have defined Life Service and we have set forth the need. Now, how can we as a missionary organization discharge our responsibility? I would mention three ways, the first is Prayer. In the city of Loveland there is a banner stretched above one of the main streets bearing this inscription, 'Parents, establish a family altar.' I trust there is no home in this Presbyterial where a family altar is not maintained. Furthermore, every woman should have a prayer-list of young people, in whose behalf she should intercede earnestly that they should be willing to be made willing for God to work out His purpose and plan in their lives. This is a service in which every woman can engage though prevented by home duties from more active work."

"Let us pass on to another way— Training. This is the mother's special field. Many a mother, like Hannah, has dedicated her unborn child to the Master's service, and from infancy trained it with that end in view. That is what Mrs. White did. Today one son is at the head of the White Bible School in New York City; another son is the president of a Denominational College in Ohio—two other sons are missionaries, and the only daughter is the wife of John R. Mott, of missionary fame. Did it pay?"

"The only crown I ask—dear Lord, to wear,

Is this, that I may help a little child. I do not ask that I should ever stand

Among the wise, the worthy, or the great,

I only ask, that softly hand in hand,

A child and I may enter at thy gate."

"I come now to the last point—Example. 'Aye there's the rub'—How much easier to teach than to perform, to preach than to practice? If the call comes to me, to give one of my loved ones to Him in service, at home or abroad, am I glad? Do I allow my personal grievance to hinder me from doing my part in the work of the society or of the congregation? Is my life such that children and young people see Christ through me? Only ourselves and God need know the answers to these questions."

"Prayer—Training—Example—not the least of these is example."

* * * *

Responsibility of W. M. S. for Faithful Stewardship.

(Excerpts from a paper read at Colorado Presbyterial in Denver, by Mrs. J. G. McElhinney.)

"Webster says: 'A steward is a person entrusted with the management of estates or affairs not his own—hence one who manages or disburses for another.' Rev. Elliott says, 'A Christian steward is one who acknowledges that God is the owner of all and strives to administer all his possessions for

God's glory. A tithing steward is one who acknowledges his stewardship obligations by paying at least the tithe of his net income to the Lord.' Webster says, 'Faithful is true or trustworthy in performance of a duty, especially in fulfilment of promises and obligations.' This brings in our part. It involves our character and honesty in the business of another. We are answerable legally and morally for the discharge of our duty, trust or debt. God is the owner of all our possessions and in seeking to administer them faithfully we must give at least onetenth of our income to the Lord."

"We have a responsibility as women, as mothers, and as members of the W. M. S."

"Women's influence is being recognized in America and other countries in government affairs. We have always been willing to receive the honor, are we willing to accept the responsibility?"

"As mothers our influence on our children is great. The Bible recognizes this as it says about kings, 'and his mother's name was Bathsheba,' etc. Like mother like daughter. Can't you remember the tithe cup in your mother's cupboard? Not long ago a young man said, 'I can remember seeing mother count out the tithe of her butter and eggs.' Will our children do this?

"Rev. Elliott said at the Women's Conference in Greeley, 'We are counting on the women to put the Forward Movement across. If the women are in favor of it, it will go.'"

"It is woman's nature to love the beautiful—lovely clothes, little accessories, fine linen, a real bit of china, painting or lace. If we grant the mother in the home all this, can we excuse her from responsibility in the matter of tithing?"

"As members of the W. M. S. we are responsible for the new budget system. Our organization should stress the importance of the tithe to meet the budget."

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FOREIGN MISSIONARIES OF THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRES. CHURCH

| Latakia, Syria. |
|-----------------------|
| REV. SAMUEL EGDAR |
| REV. A. J. McFarland |
| MRS. A. J. McFarland |
| J. M. BALPH, M. D |
| MRS. J. M. BALPH |
| R. ESMOND SMITH, M. D |
| MRS. R. ESMOND SMITH |
| MISS ANNIE L. KENNEDY |

Mersina, Asia Minor.

| REV. | ROBERT E. WILLSON | |
|------|-------------------|--|
| | ROBERT E. WILLSON | |
| | F. ELMA FRENCH | |
| MISS | ELIZABETH MCELROY | |

Larnaca, Cyprus.

| REV. | ALVIN | W. | SM | ITH | | | | | | | | • | • | | |
|------|---------|----|-----|-----------|----|-----|------|--|--|--|----|---|---|-------|---|
| Mr. | Ernest | V. | TW | EED | | • • | | | | | • | | • | • | • |
| MR. | ROBERT | W. | GE | ØR | ξE | | | | | | •• | | • | • | |
| MR. | REMO I. | Ro | BB. | | | • • | | | | | | | | | |

Nicosia, Cyprus.

| CALVI | N MCCA | RROLL, | M. | D. | | | | | • | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|-----|-----|------|-----|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| MRS. | CALVIN | McCA | RRO | LL. | | • • | | • | | | | |

Tak Hing, West River, South China.

| REV. JULIUS A. KEMPF |
|------------------------|
| MRS. JULIUS A. KEMPF |
| REV. R. C. ADAMS |
| Mrs. R. C. Adams |
| REV. JESSE C. MITCHEL |
| MRS. JESSE C. MITCHEL |
| KATE W. MCBURNEY, M. D |
| MISS MARY R. ADAMS |
| MISS ROSE A. HUSTON |
| |

| Do | Sing, West River, South China. |
|------|--------------------------------|
| MISS | NELLE A. BROWNLEE |
| MISS | LILLIAN J. MCCRACKEN |

HOME MISSIONARIES OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURC

Mission of the Covenant, 800 South 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa. "Iss ANNIE FORSYTH MISS EMMA M. MCFARLAND Volunteers MISS ANNA THOMPSON MISS ISABEL MCFARLAND MISS MARGARET JOHNSTON MR. ROBERT CRAWFORD MR. SAMUEL JACKSON MR. MELVILLE PEARCE MISS ANNA THOMPSON The Cameron Society of the Second Chur' Indian Mission, Apache, Okla. REV. W. W. CARITHERS Superintendent

Indian Mission, Apache, Okla. REV. W. W. CARITHERS, Superintendent CLAY WILLIAMS MISS IRENE MCMURTY

| Canton Medical Missionary Union, Canton, South China. |
|--|
| James M. Wright, M. D Mrs. James M. Wright Miss Inez M. Smith, R. N |
| Lo Ting, via Canton, South China. REV. W. M. ROBB. MRS. W. M. ROBB. E. J. M. DICKSON, M. D. MRS. E. J. M. DICKSON. MISS M. EDNA WALLACE, M. D. MISS ELLA MARGARET STEWART. MISS JEAN M. BARR. |
| On furlough. Rev. James S. Stewart, D. D. (Latakia) MRS. JAMES S. STEWART |
| MISS MAGGIE B. EDGAR (Latakia) Box 832, Winona Lake, Ind. Invalided Home. MRS. SAMUEL EDGAR (Latakia) |
| Greeley, Colorado. Rev. A. 1. Robb, D. D. (Tak Hing) Mrs. A. 1. Robb San Jacinto, Calif. |
| MRS. J. K. ROBB (Tak Hing) MRS. JOHN PEOPLES (Mersina) MISS MARY E. SHANKS (Latakia) 177 W. Cedar St., Denver, Colorado. |
| On Indefinite Leave (owing to illness in family) REV. J. K. ROBB, D. D. (Tak Hing) 705 Lincoln St., Topeka, Kansas. |
| On Continued Furlough (owing to illness in family) JOHN PEOPLES, M. D. (Mersina) 871 N. 20th St., Philadelphia, Pa. |
| RMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH |

Southern Mission, Selma, Alabama REV. R. J. MCISAAC, Superintendent MRS. NANNIE A. FRENCH, High School MISS MARY FOWLER, High School MISS ELSIE MCGEE, Primary A MISS SOPHIA KINGSTON, Primary B MRS. DAISY HILL, First Grade MISS E. A. MARTIN, Second Grade MISS JENNIE GORDON, Third Grade MISS JENNIE GORDON, Third Grade MISS NELLIE CARTER, Fifth Grade MRS. ELVIRA SKINNER, Sixth Grade MRS. C. F. BROOKS, Seventh Grade MISS ELLA HAYS, City Missionary MRS. M. I. ROBB, City Missionary MRS. E. O. SENEGAL, City Missionary MISS MARY FOWLER, Girls' Industrial MISS OSCEOLA MARSHALL, Girls' Industrial WILBUR BOTTOMS, Boys' Industrial MISS NAOMI GRIFFIN, Special MES. T. H. ACHE SON 117 W. MCINTYRE AVE. N.S. PITTSBURGH

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